

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
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R 081455Z APR 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5632  
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2501

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IS, SC  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO ISRAEL

1. WE DISCUSSED WITH YAACOV BARMORE, MFA DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS, THE VISIT TO ISRAEL APRIL 2-10 OF COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO SEGREDÁ. BARMORE SAID FACIO'S VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY A MEETING BETWEEN TWO OLD FRIENDS BECAUSE HE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. FACIO HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO VISIT ISRAEL LAST YEAR WITH COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO AND MADE THE VISIT THIS YEAR WITH SEVERAL PERSONAL FRIENDS. NO BILATERAL ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED IN THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR CONVERSATION CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF A REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. FACIO ALSO MET WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND PRESIDENT KATZIR. HE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM ISRAEL APRIL 10 FOR MADRID.

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2. ISRAELI MEDIA GAVE THE FACIO VISIT EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE AND EMPHASIZED HIS COUNTRY'S STRONG FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL. THE JERUSALEM POST EDITORIALIZED: "THIS NOW TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP IS ROOTED NOT IN ANY CONSIDERATIONS OF SELF-INTEREST--THERE ARE FEW

MATERIAL WAYS IN WHICH ISRAEL CAN REPAY COSTA RICA FOR ITS STEADFAST ALLIANCE--BUT RATHER IN THAT COUNTRY'S FIRM AND UNWAVERING ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIFE AND SECURITY." IN A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 6 FACIO SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS SUBJECTED TO SOME PRESSURE FROM ARAB STATES BECAUSE OF ITS FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL. HE SAID THIS PRESSURE IS PARTICULARLY NOTED AT THE UN WHERE ARAB OPPOSITION TO ANY COSTA RICAN CANDIDANCY FOR AN ELECTED POSITION IS AUTOMATIC. HE COMMENTED THAT THESE PRESSURES AND THE DENIAL OF MONETARY BENEFITS WOULD NOT TEMPT COSTA RICA TO CHANGE ITS PRO-ISRAEL STANCE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HOSTED A DINNER FOR THE COSTA RICAN GUESTS APRIL 5 IN JERUSALEM. IN HIS REMARKS, ALLON SAID THAT ON MANY OCCASIONS AT THE UN, "ISRAEL FINDS ITSELF WITH ONLY TWO FRIENDS--ONE GREAT BIG ONE AND COSTA RICA." IN HIS RESPONSE TO ALLON, FACIO SAID THAT JERUSALEM SHOULD REMAIN UNDER ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY AS THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE, ALWAYS WELCOME NEW TO ISRAELI EARS.

4. BARMORE ALSO TOLD US THAT FACIO COMMENTED IN "GLOWING TERMS" ABOUT FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA TODMAN AND SAID THAT IN HIS NEW POSITION AS ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN WILL HOPEFULLY PRESIDE OVER A NEW ERA IN CONFIDENTIAL

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U.S./LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. FACIO SAID HE HOPED THE NEW U.S. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE A SUCCESS IN LATIN AMERICA AFTER THE INITIAL DIFFICULTIES IT HAS ENCOUNTERED IN ARGENTINA AND ELSEWHERE. HE SAID AMERICAN EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE ONLY WAY TO CHECK THE APPEAL OF SOVIET IDEOLOGY IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. BARMORE SAID HE ASKED FACIO ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PANAMA'S CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT TORRIJOS TO LIBYA WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 10. FACIO REPLIED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED THAT TORRIJOS WOULD MAKE SUCH A VISIT BECAUSE HE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS REGARDING QADHAFI. THIS LED HIM TO SUPPOSITION THAT "SOMETHING IS AFOOT" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. BARMORE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED

DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS WHEN FACIO SAID HE  
AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG THAT THE CUBANS  
HAD BEEN A STABILIZING INFLUENCE IN THE ANGOLAN  
SITUATION. HIS POINT WAS THAT IF THE CUBANS  
HAD NOT INTERVENED, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE DONE  
SO. BECAUSE THE CUBANS WERE QUICK AND EFFICIENT,  
VORSTER'S PLANNED INTERVENTION WAS HEADED OFF;  
A MOVE IN ANGOLA BY SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE  
PROVOKED AN AFRICAN-WIDE REACTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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